

the Chief Justice of India for consideration. The Government has been informed that the Full Court at a meeting of the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court on 30th April, 2001 have unanimously opposed the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

(b) Information in this regard is being collected.

Reservation for Women Judges

666. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to reserve one-third number of posts of Judges in favour of women in Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. There is no proposal at present for reserving one-third posts of Judges for women in either Supreme Court of India or the High Courts. There are, however, one Woman Judge in the Supreme Court and 19 Women Judges in the High Courts.

The Central Government, has, however, been writing to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Court Judges.

Delay in appointment of Judges

667. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Justice of India has voiced his

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concern over the delay in appointment of Judges resulting in piling up pending cases;

(b) if so, the details of the vacant posts of Judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court; and

(c) the present status of action taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for appointment of Judges in the High Court it lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court.

Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

The information regarding the number of vacancies in Supreme Court and various High Courts as also the number of proposals received from the Chief Justice of India and Chief Justices of the High Courts, which are at different stages of consideration, is given below:—

SUPREME COURT

Approved strength	: 26
No. of vacancies	: 04
No. of proposals received	} Nil
from the Chief Justice of India	

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved Strength as on 14.07.2004	No. of vacancies	No. of Proposals received from the Chief Justice of the High Courts
1	Allahabad	95	24	14
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	10	07
3	Bombay	60	05	—
4	Calcutta	50	07	—
5	Chhattisgarh	08	05	01
6	Delhi	33	05	05
7	Gauhati	27	15	06
8	Gujarat	42	11	10
9	Himachal Pradesh	09	03	01
10	Jammu & Kashmir	14	07	—
11	Jharkhand	12	01	02
12	Karnataka	40	11	02
13	Kerala	29	07	09
14	Madhya Pradesh	42	17	06
15	Madras	49	20	09
16	Orissa	22	10	02
17	Patna	43	21	07
18	Punjab & Haryana	53	25	—
19	Rajasthan	40	20	08
20	Sikkim	03	01	02
21	Uttaranchal	09	01	—
TOTAL		719	226	91

Court building and flats for Judges

668. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States and Union Territories where High Court building and residential quarters for judges are yet to be built; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to provide funds for construction of the same?